500 Campus Drive Florham Park, NJ 07932 Telephone: (973) 360-1100 Facsimile: (973) 360-9831

Attorneys for Defendant FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

**76 CIV** 13769

TOBI WHITE,

Plaintiff,

v.

FUJI PHOTO FILM USA, INC.,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL** 

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TO:

THE CHIEF JUDGE AND JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES

DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

#### ON NOTICE TO:

Ian Belinfanti, Esq.
Law Offices of Ian Belinfanti, Esq.
481 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 924
New York, New York 10001
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Clerk of the Court Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Westchester 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. White Plains, New York 10601 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant, by and through its attorneys, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, hereby removes this civil action currently pending in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester, Index No. 13335/06 (hereinafter the "State Court Action"), to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446, as amended, and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1331, on the following grounds:

- 1. Based on the Amended Complaint, Plaintiff instituted the State Court Action by filing a Complaint in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester, on July 18, 2006. The original complaint was never served on Defendant. Plaintiff subsequently filed an Amended Complaint on November 16, 2006. In the Amended Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant retaliated against her in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, codified at 42 U.S.C. §2000e and the New York Human Rights Law. Plaintiff personally served the Amended Complaint on Defendant on November 16, 2006. A copy of the Amended Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 2. Defendant was served the summons on November 17, 2006. A copy of the Summons is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- 3. As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), copies of all process and pleadings are annexed hereto.
- 4. This Notice of Removal satisfies the requirements of §1446(b) because Defendant has filed this Notice of Removal within 30 days of receiving the Amended Complaint, which constitutes Defendant's first notice that Plaintiff's claims are removable to this Court.
- 5. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, the United States District Courts have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. The present action

contains a matter over which this Court has original jurisdiction and which shall be removable to this Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1441, and 1446.

6. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), written notice of the removal of this action has been given simultaneously to Plaintiff's counsel, and a Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal is simultaneously being filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester. A copy of the Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

Dated: December 5, 2006

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH, LLP

Helen E. Tuttle (HT-3120) John A. Ridley (JR-1148)

500 Campus Drive

Florham Park, New Jersey 07932

Attorneys for Defendant FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

Exhibit A

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COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER	E OF NEW YOR	RK ·	
TOBI WHITE,	Plaintiff,	P	Index No.: 13335/06
-against-	O <sub>las</sub>	14 M	La
FUJI PHOTO FILM USA, INC.,	Defendant.	A CONTRACTOR	AMENDED COMPLAINT
	X		

### For A First Cause Of Action

- 1. This action arises under New York State Human Rights Law, NY Exec. Law 296, et seq., and 42 USC § 2000e, as more fully appears herein.
- Plaintiff, Tobi White, an African American female, resides at 1729 Crescent
   Drive, Tarrytown, New York 10591.
- Defendant Fuji Film USA, Inc., is a domestic corporation licensed to do business in the State of New York with principal offices at 200 Summit Lake Drive, Floor No. 2, Valhalla, New York, 10595.
- 4. Plaintiff in 1996 obtained a Baccalaureate degree in Marketing from Mercy College.
- Plaintiff began employment with defendant on 10/9/2001 with the title of Administrative Secretary.
- 6. In April, 2002, plaintiff's title was changed to that of Office Assistant with no change in job responsibilities.

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- Plaintiff performed her job satisfactorily, receiving satisfactory reviews for the job and was nominated for the company's image of excellence award on various occasions.
- Beginning in 2002, plaintiff suffered negative job action when complained of disparaging treatment by her supervisor.
- 9. Plaintiff made various complaints to defendant's Human Resources Department about her unfair treatment, which included failure to evaluate her job, inequitable pay raises and continued petty harassment by her direct supervisor.
- Defendant failed to investigate plaintiff's complaints, but instead, put her on
   day warning.
- 11. On or about March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Plaintiff's charge of employment discrimination was received by the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, designated as Charge No. 160-2004-01889.
- 12. Plaintiff, on or about December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, received a 90 day letter from the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission advising plaintiff of the right to sue on her claims of Hostile Work Environment, Discriminatory terms or conditions of employment of African Americans and Inconsistent Compensation.
- 13. On 3/16/2005 plaintiff filed a Title VII employment Discrimination lawsuit against Fuji Photo Film, U.S.A., Inc., alleging racial discrimination.

- 14. Plaintiff thereafter, on or about March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, filed a complaint with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which was acknowledged by a letter from the EEOC dated April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- Defendant Fuji, was granted its motion for summary judgment dismissing plaintiff's discrimination suit, by the Federal District Court, Southern District of New York, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- 16. Plaintiff filed suit for retaliation on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- 17. Fuji Photo Film was aware of plainiff's lawsuit for discrimination since it was mentioned in correspondence by plaintiff's manager, Bill Drysdale.
- 18. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, plaintiff's manager, Bill Drysdale, terminated her, citing insubordination in not timely completing a form.
- 19. Plaintiff denies that she had timely failed to complete the required form.
- 20. Plaintiff further believes that even if plaintiff had failed to timely complete the form as alleged, such failure did not rise to the level employment misconduct required under Fuji employment policies to warrant such dismissal.
- 21. Plaintiff believes that the stated reason for her termination was pretextual and that the real reason was retaliation for filing an employment discrimination law suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, a protected activity.
- 22. Defendant was terminated on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.

23. Such termination was unlawful, actionable and compensable under New York

State Human Rights Law, NY Exec. Law 296, et seq. and 42 US § 2000e, et seq.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands a jury trial in the instant case, and further demands judgment against defendant Fuji Photo Film, USA, Inc., for employment discrimination under New York State Human Rights Law, NY Exec. Law 296, et seq., in an amount to determined by the court

Dated: New York, New York 11/15/2006

Ian Belinfanti/Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff

New York, New York 10001

212-868-7347 IB 3746

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200 Summit Lake it Valhalla	NY 10595	1100310
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### U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission New York District Office - 520

33 Whitehall Street 5th Floor New York, NY 10004 (212) 336-3620 TTY (212) 336-3625 FAX (212) 338-3625 1-800-669-4000

Respondent: FUJI PHOTO FILM, USA EEOC Charge No.: 520-2006-01350

FEPA Charge No.:

Apr 19, 2006

Tobi White 1729 Crescent Drive Tarrytown, NY 10591

Dear Ms. White:

This is to acknowledge receipt of the above-numbered charge of employment discrimination against the above-named respondent. Please use the "EEOC Charge No." listed above whenever you call us about this charge. The information provided indicates that the charge is subject to:

- [X] Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII)

  The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA)

  The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- [ ] The Equal Pay Act (EPA)

You need do nothing further at this time. We will contact you when we need more information or assistance. A copy of the charge or notice of the charge will be sent to the respondent within 10 days of our receipt of the charge as required by our procedures.

Please be aware that we will send a copy of the charge to the agency listed below as required by our procedures. If the charge is processed by that agency, it may require the charge to be signed before a notary public or an agency official. Then the agency will investigate and resolve the charge under their statute. If this occurs, section 1601.76 of EEOC's regulations entitles you to ask us to perform a Substantial Weight Review of the agency's final finding. To obtain this review, a written request must be made to this office within 15 days of receipt of the agency's final finding in the case. Otherwise, we will generally adopt the agency's finding as EEOC's.

New York State Division Of Human Rights Federal Contract Unit One Fordham Plaza, 4 Fl. Bronx, NY 10458

Please notify this office of any change in address or of any prolonged absence from home. Failure to cooperate in this matter may lead to dismissal of the charge.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Guest Investigator (212) 336-3757

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

TDD: 1-800-669-6820

www.eeoc.gov

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To: Tobl White 1728 Creascant Drive 1738 Creascant Drive 1739 Creascant	***************************************		Dismissal and	NOTICE	OF RIGHTS
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Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file y charge.  Having been given 30 days in which to respond, you failed to provide information, failed to appear or be available interviewal/conferences, or otherwise failed to cooperate to the extent that it was not possible to rescrive your charge.  White reasonable efforts were made to locate you, we were not able to do so.  You were given 30 days to accept a reasonable settlement offer that affords full relief for the harm you alleged.  The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtain satisfiliations of the abstrace. This clean not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.  The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local that employment practices agency that investigated this charge.  Other (briefly state)  This charge is related to your pending lawsuit against Respondent.  - NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -  (See the additional information attached to this form.)  Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the on notice of dismissall and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal in state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 30 DAYS of your receipt be different.)  Figure Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the before you file suit may not be collectible.  On behalf of the Commission  On behalf of the Commission			•		
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Fersonnel Director
FUJI PHOTO FILM, USA
200 Summit Lake Drive
Valitalia, NY 10595

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TOBI WHITE,

O5 CIVIL 02937 (CM)

Plaintiff,

JUDGMENT

-against
FUJI PHOTO FILM USA, INC.,

Defendant.

X

Whereas the above entitled action having been assigned to the Honorable College McMahon, U.S.D.J., and the Court thereafter on April 7, 2006, having handed down a DECISION AND ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT (docket #24) granting Defendant's motion for summary judgment (docket #21) and dismissing the complaint with prejudice, it is,

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED: that the Defendant's motion for summary judgment (docket #21) is granted, the complaint is dismissed with prejudice and the case is hereby closed.

DATED: White Plains, N.Y.

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April 11, 2006

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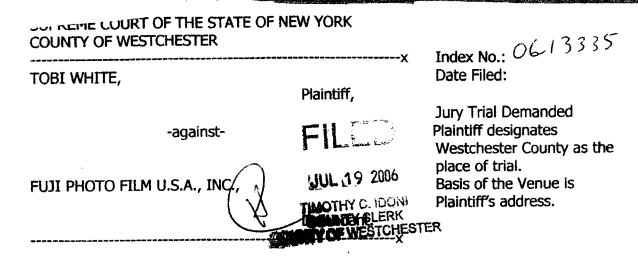
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Michael McMahon, Clerk of the Court

DOCKETED AS A JUDGMENT ON

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Exhibit B



### **ACTION FOR RETALIATION**

**SUMMONS** 

To the above named Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff OR Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below.

Dated 7 July 19th 2006

Ian Belinfanti/ Esq. Attorney for Plaintiff

481 8th Avenue, Suite 924 New York, New York 10001

212-868-7347

To:

FUJI PHOTO FILM U.S.A., INC.,

200 Summit Lake Drive

Floor No. 2

Valhalla, New York, 10595

Exhibit C

500 Campus Drive

Florham Park, NJ 07932 Telephone: (973) 360-1100 Facsimile: (973) 360-9831

Attorneys for Defendant

FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

SUPREME COURT STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

TOBI WHITE,

Index No. 13335/06

Plaintiff,

V.

FUJI PHOTO FILM USA, INC.,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the within is a true copy of the Notice of Removal filed in the office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on December 5, 2006.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester, shall proceed no further unless the case is remanded.

Dated: Florham Park, New Jersey
December 5, 2006

DRINKER SIDDLE & REATH LLP

By:

Helen E. Tuttle John A. Ridley 500 Campus Drive

Florham Park, New Jersey 07932

Attorneys for Defendants
FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

TO: Ian Belinfanti, Esq.
Law Offices of Ian Belinfanti, Esq.
481 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 924
New York, New York 10001
Attorneys for Plaintiff

JS44/SDNY Rev. 1/97

### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

PLAINTIFFS Tobi White				<b>DEFENDANTS</b> FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation s/h/a Fuji Photo Film USA, Inc.			
ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, AD lan Belinfanti, Esq. 481 8th Avenue New York, New York 10001 (212) 868-7347			Hele Drinl 500 Flort (973	ORNEYS (IF KNOWN) n E. Tuttle, Esq. ker Biddle & Reath, LLP Campus Drive nam Park, New Jersey 07 ) 360-1100			
CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE TO Plaintiff alleges that Defendant relationship that the plaintiff alleges that Defendant relationship that Defendant relatio	etaliated against her in violat	ion of Title VII of the Civil Rights	yes	ended, codified at 42 U.S	C. §2000e and New York's Sty Assigned Honorable Co	olleen McMahon	
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					ACTIONS UNDE	ER STATUTES	
CONTRACT  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability  REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Leases & Ejectment 240 Torts To Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  315 Airplane Product Liability  320 Assault, Libel & Stander  330 Federal Employers' Liability  340 Marine  345 Marine Product Liability  350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability  360 Other Personal Injury  ACTIONS UNDER STATUTE  CIVIL RIGHTS  441 Voting  442 Employment  443 Housing/ Accommodations  444 Welfare  440 Other Civil Rights	PERSONAL INJURY  362 Personal Injury Med Malpractice  365 Personal Injury Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPERTY  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lending  385 Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITIONS  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 20 usc 2255  530 Habeas Corpus 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	FO 610 620 620 620 620 650 650 660 690 710 720 730 740 7991	Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 Liquor Laws R.R. & Truck Airline Regs Occupational Safety/Health Other  LABOR  Fair Llabor Standards Act Labor/Mgmt. Relations Labor/Mgmt. Relations Labor/Mgmt. Reprotomg Disclosure Act Railway Labor Litigation Other Labor Litigation	28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS  820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY	OTHER STATUTES  400 State Reapportionment A110 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) 810 Selective Service Securities/Commodities Exchange 12 USC 3410 Agricultural Acts Economic Stabilization Act 882 Economic Stabilization Act 883 Environmental Matters Energy Allocation Act 985 Freedom of Information Act 986 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes Other Statutory Actions	
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DEFENDANT(S) ADDRESS(ES) AND COUNTY(IES) (Calendar Rule 4(A)) FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation 200 Summit Lake Drive Valhalla, New York 10595							
Westchester Count	у						
DEFENDANT(S) ADDRESS UNKNOWN REPRESENTATION IS HEREBY MADE THAT, AT THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN UNABLE, WITH REASONABLE DILIGENCE, TO ASCERTAIN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESSES OF THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANTS: N/A							
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magistrate Judge _					is so Designated.		
James M. Parkison, Clerk of Court by Deputy Clerk, DATED							

500 Campus Drive Florham Park, NJ 07932 Telephone: (973) 360-1100 Facsimile: (973) 360-9831

Attorneys for Defendant FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TOBI WHITE,

Civil Action No.

Plaintiff,

V.

FUJI PHOTO FILM USA, INC.,

Defendant.

**RULE 7.1 STATEMENT** 

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1 and to enable District Judges and Magistrate Judges of the Court to evaluate possible disqualification and recusal, the undersigned counsel for Defendant (a private non-governmental party) certifies that the following are corporate parents, or affiliates, and/or subsidiaries of said party, which are publicly held:

**FUJIFILM Holdings Corporation** 

Dated: Florham Park, New Jersey December 5, 2006

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Helen E. Tuttle (HT-3120) John A. Ridley (JR-1148)

500 Campus Drive

Florham Park, New Jersey 07932

Attorneys for Defendants **FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation** 

SFNJ1 1148910

500 Campus Drive Florham Park, NJ 07932 Telephone: (973) 360-1100 Facsimile: (973) 360-9831

Attorneys for Defendant FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TOBI WHITE,

Civil Action No.

Plaintiff,

v.

**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE** 

FUJI PHOTO FILM USA, INC.,

Defendant.

HELEN E. TUTTLE, of full age, hereby certifies as follows:

- 1. I am an attorney in the State of New Jersey and New York and an associate with the law firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, attorneys for defendant FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation s/h/a Fuji Photo Film USA, Inc. ("Fuji") in the within action.
- 2. On December 5, 2006, I sent, via overnight mail, a copy of Fuji's Notice of Removal, with exhibits, Civil Cover Sheet, *Rule* 7.1 Statement, and this within Certification of Service to the following:

Ian Belinfanti, Esq. Law Offices of Ian Belinfanti, Esq. 481 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 924 New York, New York 10001 3. On December 5, 2006, I sent, via hand delivery, a copy of Fuji's Notice of Removal, with exhibits, Civil Cover Sheet, *Rule* 7.1 Statement, and this within Certification of Service to the following:

Clerk of the Court Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Westchester 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. White Plains, New York 10601

4. I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any

such statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Helen E. Tuttle

Dated: December 5, 2006

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